



National Park Week is here!

April 22-28, 2002



People and Parks: A place of fun and learning for all ages.

National Park Week is a time for people throughout the nation to celebrate the 385 parks in our National Park System! The National Park System includes Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rushmore, Gettysburg, the Washington Monument, and many more lesser known parks, monuments, and historical sites.

Sites in the National Park System are set aside for their natural, cultural, and/or historical significance. Parks provide us with the chance to relive moments in history, view scenic grandeur, and learn about diverse cultures that exist in the present as well as the past.

What can you do in a National Park? You can camp, hike, climb a mountain, watch bears, caribou, and birds, visit historic buildings, attend interpretive programs, participate in a Jr. Ranger Program, or purchase a book about the park and its history, culture, and wildlife.

Here in Alaska, we have seventeen National Parks and affiliated areas:

- Aniakchak Monument & Preserve
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- Gates of the Arctic National Park
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- Katmai National Park & Preserve
- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Kobuk Valley National Park
- Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
- Noatak National Preserve
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park & Preserve
- Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
- Inupiat Heritage Center

Interested in Learning More about National Parks?

- Borrow the videos *The Great Parks of Alaska*, *Denali Wilderness*, *Days of Adventure*, *Dreams of Gold* (Klondike NHP) or *Glacier Bay, A Moving Force*.
- Call 271-2741 for the brochure on "Alaska's Parklands".
- Visit the Denali Dog Kennels, Lake Clark Kid's Pages, and or Yellowstone National Park at the National Park web site at www.nps.gov. Go to Park Smart and then to Learn NPS.
- Visit the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Downtown Anchorage.

All materials are available from Joanne Welch at 271-2741.

Alaska Public Lands Information Center Celebrates with a Jelly Bean Poll and Art Contest

Alaska Public Lands Information Center in partnership with the National Park Service will be celebrating National Park Week with a Jelly Bean Poll and Art Contest. Visitors to the Center will be voting for their favorite Alaskan park by placing a jelly bean into a jar labeled with their favorite park's name. All votes are welcome; the tally will take place April 30. Last year's winner was Kenai Fjords National Park.

National Park Week Art Contest "My Favorite Alaskan Park"

Students K-6 are invited to submit artwork in keeping with the theme: "My Favorite Alaskan Park." Artwork is not restricted to size or media and may be mailed or dropped by Alaska Public Lands Information Center at 605 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 by April 30th. Prizes will be awarded!

All displays will be exhibited at the Center for the month of May. Involve your class in appreciating our national parks! Call Joanne Welch at 271.2741 for more information.

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center is an interagency facility managed by the National Park Service. The Center represents eight different state and federal agencies in helping to provide visitors and residents with meaningful, safe, enjoyable experiences on public lands while encouraging them to sustain the natural and cultural resources found therein. The Center is one of four other facilities in the State created by legislation within the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act of 1981.

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A 2001 National Park Week winning entry from Polaris K-12.

Amazing Park Facts

- The tallest mountain in North America is Mount McKinley at 20,320 feet in **Denali National Park & Preserve**.
- The largest National Park in the entire system is **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve** with 13,200,000 acres (the size of six Yellowstones). It includes nine of the sixteen highest peaks in the United States.
- Two National Parks are north of the Arctic Circle: **Gates of the Arctic** and **Kobuk Valley**.
- The National Park Service has two new affiliated areas in Alaska: the **Aleutian World War II National Historic Area** in Unalaska commemorates the role of the Aleut people and the Aleutian Islands in the of the United States in World War II. The **Inupiat Heritage Center** in Barrow commemorates the contribution of Alaska Natives to the history of commercial whaling in the United States.
- In 2001, National Parks throughout the nation hosted over 424 million visitors. Alaskan National Parks' visitation numbered 1,960,458.